



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee

The Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee is an active voice in advocating that all students receive superior educational services enabling each student to achieve optimum success throughout the school years and into the world of adulthood.

April 25, 2013

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

RI Parent Information Network
1210 Pontiac Avenue Cranston, RI 02920

Meeting Minutes

Present: Kate Barnas, Eileen Botelho, Ann Brockmann, Amy Canario, Jennifer Connolly, Susan Donovan, Allyson Dupont, Joanne Eichinger, Deborah Garneau, Rosemary Gomes, Patti Hien, Craig Levis, Pamela O'Brien, Robin Pacheco, Mary Pendergast, Robert Wall

Absent: Princess Sirleaf Bomba, Wilfred Beaudoin*, Laura Laviano*, Cynthia Notarianni*, Louise Tillinghast, Lori Barden*, Chris Brodeur*, Gillian Elliot Pearis*, and JoAnn Nannig*

RIDE/RITAP Attendees: Beth Pinto

** Notes that prior notice was given regarding absence*

Call to Order, Welcome, Agenda Review: The meeting was called to order at: 6:35PM. Sue welcomed everyone and reviewed some brief announcements.

Announcements:

- Robert E. Wall gave some brief background on the genesis of the Augmentative Alternative Communication action planning group and reviewed the status of Augmentative Alternative Communication Action Planning event.
- Parent Survey – It has been mailed out to parents. A flyer was developed and translated into four languages, English, Spanish, Portuguese and Khmer, that was used as a reminder to complete and return the survey by May 3rd.
- Pam O'Brien discussed "Beyond Parent Night"; Westerly, RI & Springfield, MA presented information on Parent Academies which have been successful at engaging parents and community members in a partnership with the schools.
- Mary Pendergast references "FEAC" Family Engagement Advisory Council. Membership will be a representation of parents, PTA, RIDE and RIPIN.
- Jane Slade shared that Dare to Dream is scheduled at URI on May 22nd. 500 students will be participating.

- Jane Slade shared information about the Transition Capacity Building Institute and the work each participating District completed including a needs assessment, requests for assistance and the writing of a transition plan.
- Robert Wall reminds membership that there is a Special Needs Driver's Rd class being offered thru CCRI from Saturdays from 0830-1130; registration is through CCRI.
- Pam O'Brien references a collaborative workshop on bullying sponsored by Parent Support Network.

Old Business: Approval of minutes

February: Name spelling corrections are requested by two committee members

Minutes are approved [with noted corrections] by Ann Brockmann & seconded by Pam O'Brien

March: Five errors are noted

Minutes are approved [with corrections] by Robert Wall & seconded by Patti Hien

New Business:

Sharon Lee, Director of Multiple Pathways at RIDE presented the RI Diploma System.[Powerpoint available to membership& on the RIDE website].

Jane Slade from RIDE Office of Student, community and Academic Supports shared information on Transition Services and the three Districts piloting various certificate options. RIDE is gathering data from pilots, and analyzing it to make recommendations for State wide implementation of a uniform Diploma/Certificate System.

Director's Report: Presented by Beth Pinto

RISEAC Director's Report - April, 2013

1. RIDE's new website

RIDE has transitioned to a newly designed website (www.ride.ri.gov), which provides information about our public schools. The site contains more interactive features, photographs and graphics, useful and informative data, and up-to- date news briefs and profiles about some of our great schools, educators, and students. The site is organized around the five priorities of the Rhode Island strategic plan for transforming education: Great Schools, Excellent Educators, World-Class Standards, User-Friendly Data, and Wise Investments. **The Legal-decisions search engine is back in operation** which provides access to Commissioner's Decisions. A number of decisions that the Commissioner has issued over the past several months, including all decisions from to date from the current year have been posted.

2. 2013 Active Threat & Workplace Violence Seminar Series

The 2013 Active Threat & Workplace Violence Seminar Series will begin with a full-day conference in which attendees will hear from local subject-matter experts on a variety of topics, including: Active Shooter: Are you Prepared, The Physiological Implications of Trauma Exposure, and Emergency Planning. This event will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 801 Greenwich Ave., Warwick, on May 1, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. To register go to: <http://jotform.us/form/30663503366149> . Please email Joseph da Silva, at Joseph.daSilva@ride.ri.gov, with any questions about this conference.

3. RIDE awards \$750,000 in grants for 21st-Century Community Learning Centers

RIDE has awarded \$750,000 in grants to run school-linked afterschool and summer programs that offer academic support, enrichment, recreation and family engagement services. Grants were awarded to: East Bay Community Action Program, The John Hope Settlement House, The Met School, Central Falls, Pawtucket and Woonsocket Schools.

4. RIDE continuing to accept suggestions for approved assessments through which students can meet graduation requirements

RIDE published an initial list of approved assessments and the required cut scores to meet the graduation requirement for each of those assessments. LEAs were invited to submit other assessments. RIDE will review assessments submitted and will update the list of approved assessments by July 1, 2014. Both the test-submission protocol and the current list of RIDE-approved assessments can be accessed at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/RIPublicSchools/DiplomaSystem.aspx>

5. 2013 School Safety Art Contest

RIDE, in collaboration with the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency and the School Safety Steering Committee, is pleased to announce the second annual school-safety art contest. Students are encouraged to use art as a means to share their vision, experiences, and talents to demonstrate “what school safety means to me,” portraying, a non-denominational, positive message. Contest rules and registration form can be found at: <http://www.riema.ri.gov/schoolsafety/contest/index.php>. Please e-mail Joseph da Silva, at Joseph.daSilva@ride.ri.gov, if you have any questions about this contest.

6. Virtual Learning Math Modules Online Tutoring Budget Available for School

RIDE is pleased to see the increased number of students enrolled and engaged in the Virtual Learning Math Modules (VLMM). Each school has an initial budget of two tutoring sessions for each student who scored Substantially Below Proficient (SBP) for the spring semester. Additional VLMM tutor sessions will be available for the summer 2013 and the 2013-14 school year. For additional information, please contact Holly Walsh (holly.walsh@ride.ri.gov).

7. President Obama releases education budget

The President is requesting \$71.2 billion in discretionary funding for the U.S. Department of Education, an increase of \$3.1 billion - or 4.5 percent - over the Fiscal Year 2013 pre-sequester level. For more information, see: <http://www.ed.gov/budget14>. The President’s budget is targeted to strengthen the education pipeline from cradle to career, including: *Preschool for All, redesigning the high school experience and increasing the career readiness, making college more affordable and improving quality, keeping schools and communities safe and providing ladders of opportunity to the middle class.*

8. Blended Learning conference scheduled for April 27

The Highlander Institute will hold its 2nd annual Blended Learning and Technology Conference, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Rhode Island College School of Management Building, in Providence. The conference will convene local, regional, and national experts to share their models, products, insight regarding blended learning and technology integration. The goal of the conference is to bring the concept of blended learning and its models and tools for implementation to teachers and administrators in Rhode Island and in the region. For more information and to register, see: <http://www.blendedlearningconference.com/>

9. The Comprehensive Early Childhood Program Regulations

The R.I. Board of Education Regulations of the Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Program – Standards for Approval of Preschool and Kindergarten Programs are posted for public comment. The proposed regulation is accessible through the R.I. Secretary of State’s Rules and Regulations Database Search at:

http://sos.ri.gov/documents/archives/regdocs/holding/DESE/Comprehensive_Early_Childhood_Education_Standards_2013.pdf

They are also available for public inspection in person at the RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 255 Westminster Street, Providence, R.I., requested by email at Angela.Teixeira@ride.ri.gov or by calling 401-222-8435. Written comments concerning the proposed amendments can be submitted to me by May 16, 2013.

Two public hearings on the proposed regulations will be held on: Monday, May 6, 2013 at East Greenwich High School Cafeteria, 300 Avenger Drive, East Greenwich, RI from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at Northern RI Collaborative, 640 George Washington Highway Lincoln, RI from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

10. RIDE updates calculations of education aid for Fiscal Year 2014

As part of the funding-formula law, state education aid is based on data from one year prior to the year in which the state distributes the aid. RIDE based this Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 aid on enrollment and free or reduced-price lunch data from FY 2013. RIDE forwarded this data to the Governor and to the General Assembly for their consideration. No changes will go into effect until the General Assembly passes, and the Governor signs, the annual appropriations bill.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Cole, at 222-4681 or kristen.cole@ride.ri.gov.

11. RIASCD seeks applications for Whole Child Recognition Program commendation

The Rhode Island ASCD has announced **May 15** as the extended deadline date for the second round of its Whole Child Recognition program. This recognition is designed to honor those schools that demonstrate a commitment to action for the whole child. Application details are available on the RIASCD website, at:

www.riascd.org

12. PARCC Accommodations Policy Released for Comment

The PARCC Consortium has released its draft accommodations manual for comment. Rhode Island is part of the PARCC Consortium RISEAC may wish to review and provide comment. Here is a link to the website: <http://parcconline.org/parcc-draft-accommodations-manual>. (Note: the first page that comes up is the press release. You will need to scroll to the end of this 2-page document to find links to the three documents that are posted (the draft manual, a PowerPoint presentation and a Q&A.) To save you some time, here are the specific links:

PARCC Draft Accommodations Manual

<http://parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCCDraftAccommodationsManualforSWDEL.pdf>

Frequently Asked Questions

http://parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCCAccommodationsManualPublicCommentFAQ_FINAL.pdf

Public Comment: None

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was initiated by Ann Brockmann & seconded by Deb Garneau

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM.

Recording Secretary:
Kate Barnas, RN
RISEAC website: www.riseac.org